BONUS EXTRA!
ROBIN TRACKS DOWN A...
"KILLER UNDER THE BIG TOP!"
50¢
ALL NEW!
NO. 338
AUG.
APPROVED BY THE COMICS CODE AUTHORITY
BAT MAN
IN THIS GAME, BATMAN, THE WINNER IS DEATH!
"THIS SPORTING DEATH!"
13
C-635

WE DON'T REST ON OUR LAURELS!
FLASH
ACTION
WORLD'S FINEST
GREEN LANTERN
"THE ANT SOLDIER"
SGT ROCK
LEGION OF SUPER-HEROES
Wonder Woman
SUPERMAN
THE NEW TEEN TITANS
GHOSTS
BATMAN
G.I. COMBAT
WARLORD
THE HOUSE OF MYSTERY
JONAH HEX
JUSTICE LEAGUE OF AMERICA
BAT MAN
Adventure Comics
DIAL "H" FOR HERO
FOR OVER FOUR DECADES, WE'VE BEEN BRINGING YOU THE VERY BEST IN COMICS' EXCITEMENT-- AND, FRIEND, THAT'S JUST THE BEGINNING!
AND COMING THIS SUMMER: ALL-STAR SQUADRON and AN EXCITING NEW SWORD-AND-SORCERY SERIES! DON'T MISS 'EM!
THE NEW DC
WHERE THE ACTION KEEPS ON COMING!
TM and © DC COMICS INC. 1981

ORPHANED AS A CHILD WHEN HIS PARENTS WERE MURDERED BEFORE HIS EYES, **BRUCE WAYNE** HAS TRAINED HIMSELF TO WAGE RELENTLESS WAR AGAINST CRIME AS THE DREAD **AVENGER OF THE NIGHT**...

GERRY CONWAY script & ROY THOMAS plot assist · IRV NOVICK & FRANK McLAUGHLIN art · DICK GIORDANO editor

JOHN COSTANZA, letters · ADRIENNE ROY, colors

CREATED BY BOB KANE

BAT MAN

THIS SPORTING DEATH!

HANK KLUGMUUN HAS WOKEN UP WITH HANGOVERS BEFORE-- THAT'S NOTHING NEW FOR "SPORT MAGAZINE'S" NUMBER ONE WRITER--

--BUT HE'S NEVER WOKEN UP WITH ONE SO BAD HE COULDN'T REMEMBER WHERE HE WAS, OR HOW HE GOT THERE.

NEVER, THAT IS, UNTIL TONIGHT.

GOTHAM STADIUM! WHAT HAPPENED TO SHELLY'S BAR?

WHAT 'M I DOIN' HERE?

YOU'RE HERE TO MAKE YOUR FINAL TOUCHDOWN, KLUGMUUN.

YOU'RE HERE TO DIE!

OH MY LORD, NO!

BATMAN, (USPS 045-340), Vol. 42, No. 338, August, 1981. Published monthly by DC COMICS INC., 75 Rockefeller Plaza, New York, N.Y. 10019. Second Class Postage paid at New York, N.Y. and Additional Mailing Offices. Copyright © 1981 by DC Comics Inc. All Rights Reserved. The stories, characters and incidents mentioned in this magazine are entirely fictional. No actual persons, living or dead, are intended or should be inferred. Printed in U.S.A.

This periodical may not be sold except by authorized dealers and is sold subject to the conditions that it shall not be sold or distributed with any part of its cover or markings removed, nor in a mutilated condition, nor affixed to, nor as part of any advertising literary or pictorial matter whatsoever.

Advertising Representative, Sanford Schwarz & Co., 355 Lexington Avenue, New York, N.Y. 10017, (212) 391-1400

SUBSCRIPTION DEPT.: DC COMICS INC., 14 Vanderventer Ave., Port Washington, N.Y. 11050. Annual subscription rate $6.00. Outside U.S.A. $7.00.

Jenette Kahn, President and Publisher
Joe Orlando, Vice Pres., Edit. Director
Dick Giordano, Editor
Cary Burkett, Associate Editor
Karen Berger, Editorial Coordinator
Jack Adler, Vice President-Production
Paul Levitz, Mgr. of Business Affairs
Arthur Gutowitz, Treasurer

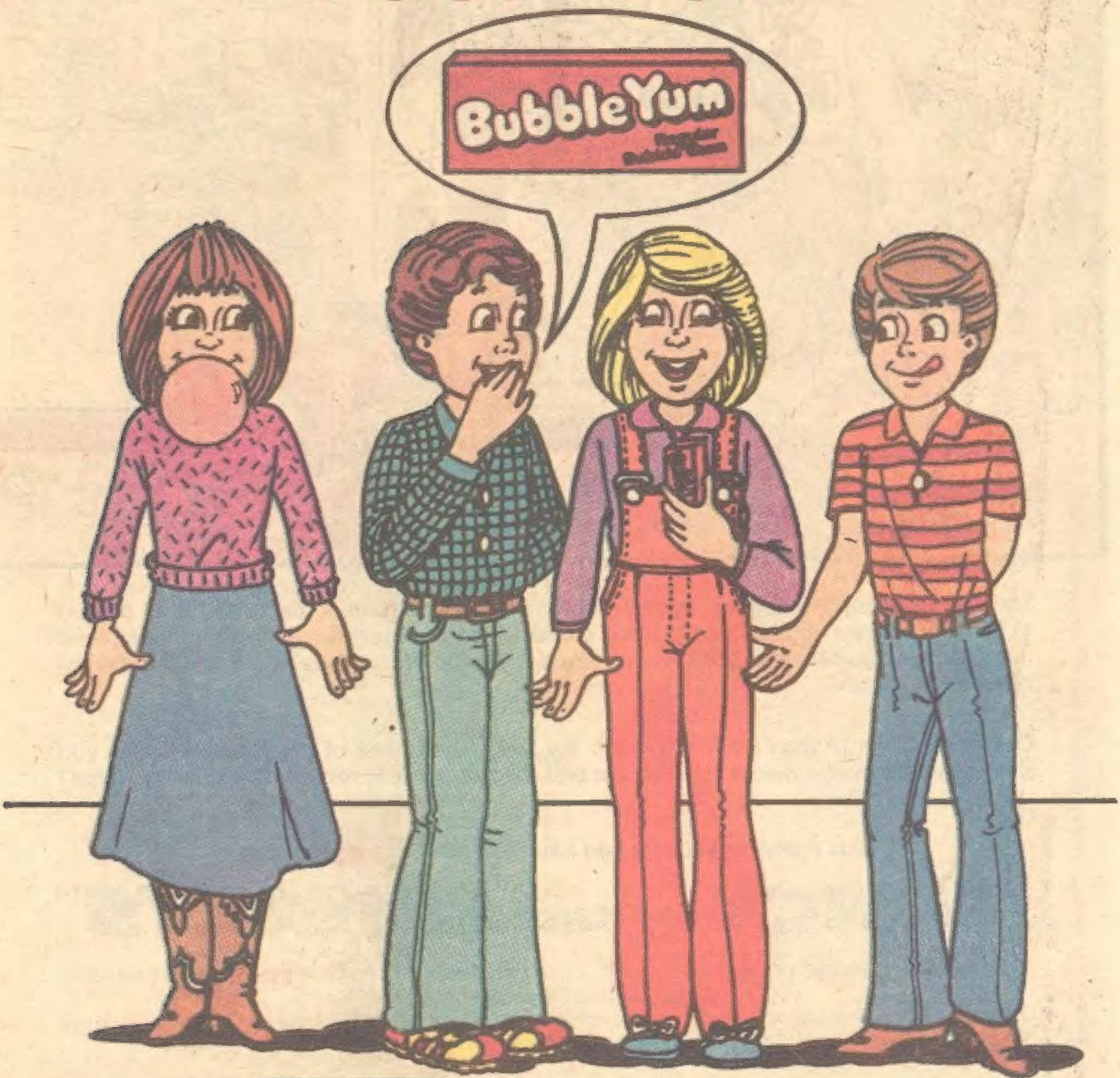
IT'S A NICE WARM NIGHT HERE IN GOTHAM STADIUM.
A GREAT NIGHT FOR A BALL GAME.
AND AT THE END OF THE LAST QUARTER, IT'S VISITORS--ONE...
CHUNK
...HOME TEAM--ZERO!
PUT THAT IN YOUR WEEKLY COLUMN, KLUGMUUN.
THE MAN IN THE MIXED-UP UNIFORM GIVES A BRITTLE LAUGH AND SKATES AWAY OVER UNYIELDING TURF.
BEHIND HIM, HE LEAVES A DEAD MAN.
TWO HOURS LATER, IN THE SHADOW OF POLICE HEADQUARTERS...
A NIGHT WATCHMAN FOUND HIM IN LEFT FIELD.
GOTHAM MORGUE
AS YOU CAN SEE, HIS NECK'S BEEN BROKEN.
ANY IDEA WHAT KIND OF WEAPON WAS USED?
A STICK OR CLUB OF SOME KIND.
YOU'RE PROBABLY WONDERING WHY I CALLED YOU IN ON THIS, BATMAN.
AS A MATTER OF FACT, COMMISSIONER, I AM.
...BUT COULDN'T YOUR MEN HANDLE AN ORDINARY HOMICIDE AS WELL AS I COULD?
I'M INTERESTED, OF COURSE...
ORDINARY, YES.
BUT I HAVE A SUSPICION THAT THIS KILLING IS MORE THAN ANOTHER MUGGING.
IT FITS A PATTERN OF RECENT MURDERS... KLUGMUUN THERE WAS A SPORTS WRITER.
I'M BEGINNING TO SEE.

TWO WEEKS AGO, BILLY ROBINS, THE HOT-HEADED MANAGER OF THE GOTHAM CHAMPS WAS FOUND SUFFOCATED TO DEATH IN THE TEAM LOCKER ROOM...
...A WEEK LATER, TOP SWIMMING STAR BRUCE SPITS WAS FISHED OUT OF THE WEST RIVER...
...AND THREE NIGHTS AGO, JOHN CLAUDE HILLY ENDED HIS DOWNHILL SKIING CAREER PINNED TO A HOTEL ROOM WALL WITH HIS OWN SKI POLES.
NOW TKLUGMULLIN, A SPORTS WRITER.
BATMAN, SOMEONE OUT THERE IS ACTING OUT A VENDETTA AGAINST SOME OF THIS CITY'S TOP SPORTS PERSONALITIES.
HE MUST BE STOPPED.
WILL YOU--?
THE DARKNIGHT DETECTIVE SMILES REPROVINGLY; IT'S A QUESTION THAT NEEDN'T HAVE BEEN ASKED...
A MOMENT LATER, HE IS GONE.
DAYBREAK, SIX HOURS LATER, AT THE WAYNE PENTHOUSE:
A STRANGE CASE, MASTER BRUCE.
SPORTS FIGURES ARE GENERALLY ADMIRED, AFTER ALL.
DISLIKING SPORTS IS... AH... DISTINCTLY UNAMERICAN.
OUR KILLER DOESN'T JUST DISLIKE SPORTS, ALFRED.
HE HATES THEM... AND APPARENTLY, THE PEOPLE WHO PLAY AND REPORT THEM.
BUT HIS MOTIVES DON'T CONCERN ME NOW.
WHOEVER BROUGHT KLUGMULLIN ONTO THAT FIELD DID IT WITHOUT LEAVING ANY FOOTPRINTS.
3

THE ONLY PRINTS ON THAT DEWY GRASS, ACCORDING TO THE POLICE REPORTS--
--WERE KLUGMULN'S OWN.
THAT DOESN'T SEEM POSSIBLE, SIR.
NO, ALFRED. IT DOESN'T.
TO INVESTIGATE A POSSIBLE INVESTMENT PROPERTY, OF COURSE.
WHICH IS WHY BRUCE WAYNE IS GOING TO VISIT GOTHAM STADIUM.
BE CAREFUL, SIR. WHOEVER HE IS--
--THIS KILLER ISN'T QUITE CRICKET.
GOTHAM STADIUM: A FEW HOURS FROM NOW, AT NOON, A CROWD OF THOUSANDS WILL GATHER FOR A SUNDAY BALL GAME...
...BUT AS BRUCE WAYNE ARRIVES, THE DAY IS BARELY AN HOUR OLD..
STADIUM
...AND GOTHAM STADIUM ECHOES NOT WITH THE ROAR OF THOUSANDS OF VOICES RAISED IN BLOODTHIRSTY CRY, BUT RATHER WITH THE LONELY CLATTER OF FOOTSTEPS IN A CONCRETE TUNNEL...
THIS IS WHERE KLUGMUNN WAS FOUND. THE ARTIFICIAL TURF STILL SHOWS THE DEPRESSION WHERE HE FELL.
THE ONLY FOOTPRINTS LEADING HERE ARE THOSE OF THE WATCHMAN, THE POLICE, AND MYSELF.
BUT HERE'S SOMETHING THAT WASN'T IN THE OFFICIAL REPORT COMMISSIONER GORDON TOLD ME ABOUT.
TRACKS THROUGH THE TURF. THEY WOULDN'T BE VISIBLE. AT NIGHT, UNDER ARTIFICIAL LIGHT.
THEY LEAD DIRECTLY TO THE DUGOUT.
I WONDER WHERE THEY GO FROM THERE?

CONTINUED ON 3RD PAGE FOLLOWING

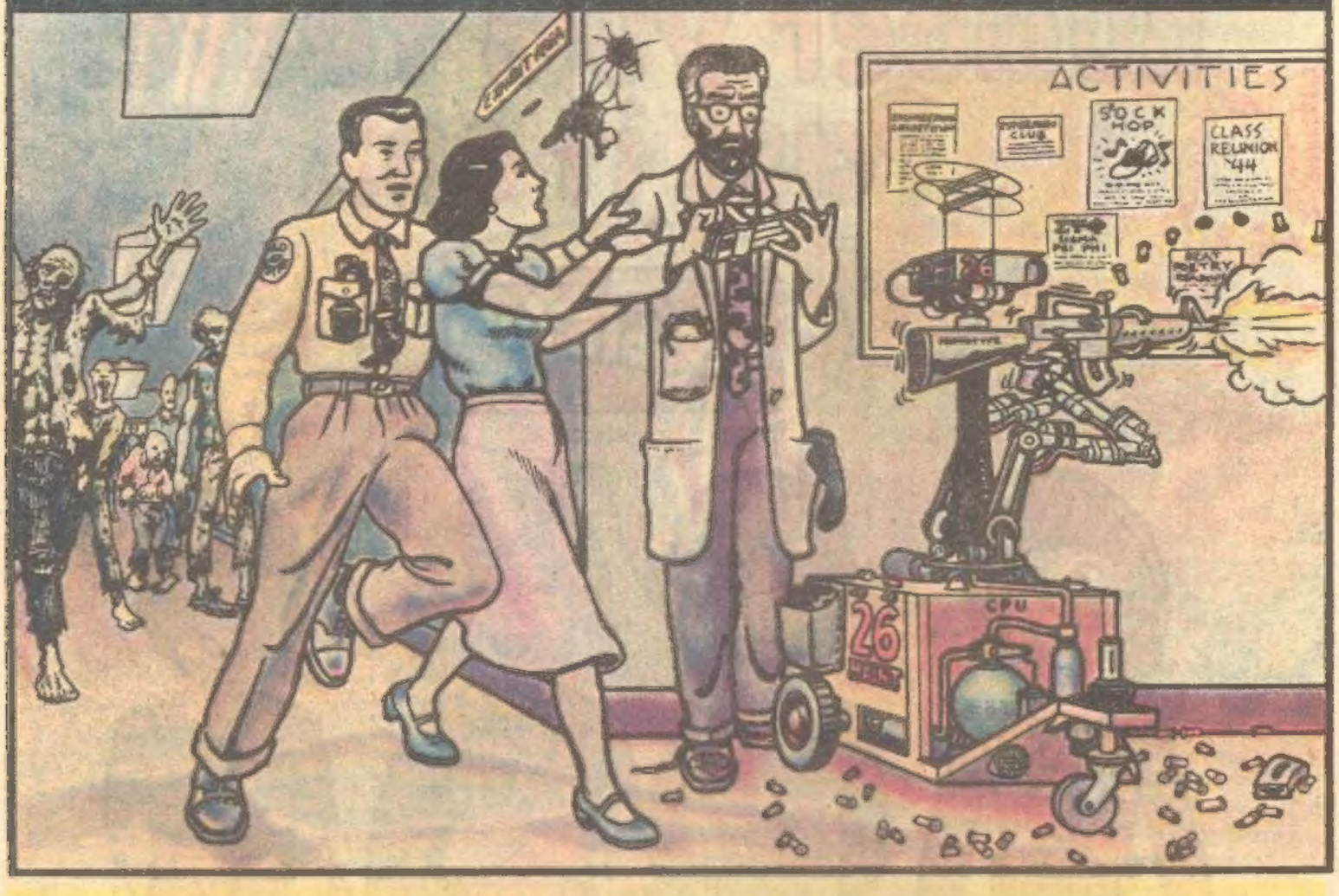
Bubble Yum's got the number yum taste. Pass it on.



Everybody's talking about the great taste of Bubble Yum.®

It's got great big bubbles and the flavor lasts a long, long, looong time. Pass it on!

YOU ARE EARTH'S ONLY HOPE!



The professor and his team of experts work frantically to perfect the "Ad Astra" project at the university's science center. Just moments before they are ready to conduct their final test the outer halls of the building shatter as the radioactive mutants of a devastated Earth attack!

Can you as the Human player hold off the fearsome attack of the Mutants? Can you as the Mutant player defeat the humans and their brave little robots before they escape?

You'll only know after you have played your FREE copy of

ATTACK of the MUTANTS™

This special introductory version of "Attack of the Mutants" is yours FREE when you send $2.00 for our catalog of games.

Our beautiful full color catalog has dozens of games from science fiction, history, fantasy and war. Whether you are new to Adventure gaming or an old hand you'll find many exciting titles to select from in this beautiful catalog.

Send $2.00 to YAQUINTO PUBLICATIONS
P.O. Box 24767
Dallas, Texas 75224

SPECIAL BONUS OFFER

Order any one of these fun and exciting games and we'll send you both the game catalog and the special version of Attack of the Mutants absolutely FREE

Swashbuckler	$8.00	Demon's Run	$8.00	Asteroid Pirates	$ 8.00
The Barbarians	$8.00	Battle	$8.00	Time War	$14.00
Beachhead	$8.00	Fast Attack Boats	$8.00	Shooting Stars	$16.00

Check or Money Order must accompany all orders. Sorry no C.O.D.'s. Allow three to four weeks for delivery.

LIKE TWIN SERPENT-TRAILS, THE TRACKS WIND SINUOUSLY THROUGH THE TURF, HERE LOOPING, THERE FORMING A FIGURE-EIGHT...
THERE IS SOMETHING PECULIARLY FAMILIAR ABOUT THE PATTERNS THE TRACKS FORM, BUT BRUCE WAYNE CAN'T QUITE PUT HIS FINGER ON WHAT IT IS...
...AND A MOMENT LATER, POSSIBLE PATTERNS HARDLY SEEM TO MATTER.
THE TRACKS LEAD RIGHT ACROSS THE DUGOUT TO THAT DOOR--
--AND DEAD END IN THIS LOCKER ROOM.
ONLY TWO EXITS.
THE ONE I CAME THROUGH-- AND THIS DOOR, USED BY STADIUM EMPLOYEES.
IT'S LOCKED.
I'M BACK TO SQUARE-ONE-- WITHOUT A CLUE.
THAT EVENING, AT GOTHAM SQUARE GARDEN: IN THIS AGE OF TELEVISED SPORTS, THE DEMAND FOR MORE CONTESTS (AND MORE PROGRAMMING) HAS BROUGHT US NIGHT-TIME BASEBALL...
...MONDAY NIGHT FOOTBALL...
...AND SUNDAY NIGHT HOCKEY.
I FINALLY REMEMBERED WHAT THOSE TRACKS REMINDED ME OF...
"...ICE TRACKS IN A SKATING RINK!
"A MUNCH TELLS ME THE KILLER MAY STRIKE AT ONE OF THE PLAYERS AFTER TONIGHT'S GAME BETWEEN THE GOTHAM GOLIATHS AND THE STAR CITY STARS.
"THE MOST LIKELY TARGET IS PIERRE FOOTE, THE FRENCH CANADIAN WHO PLAYS FOR THE GOLIATHS.
CHUD
"IF THE KILLER DOES MAKE A MOVE AFTER THE GAME--
"--I'LL BE READY FOR HIM."
5

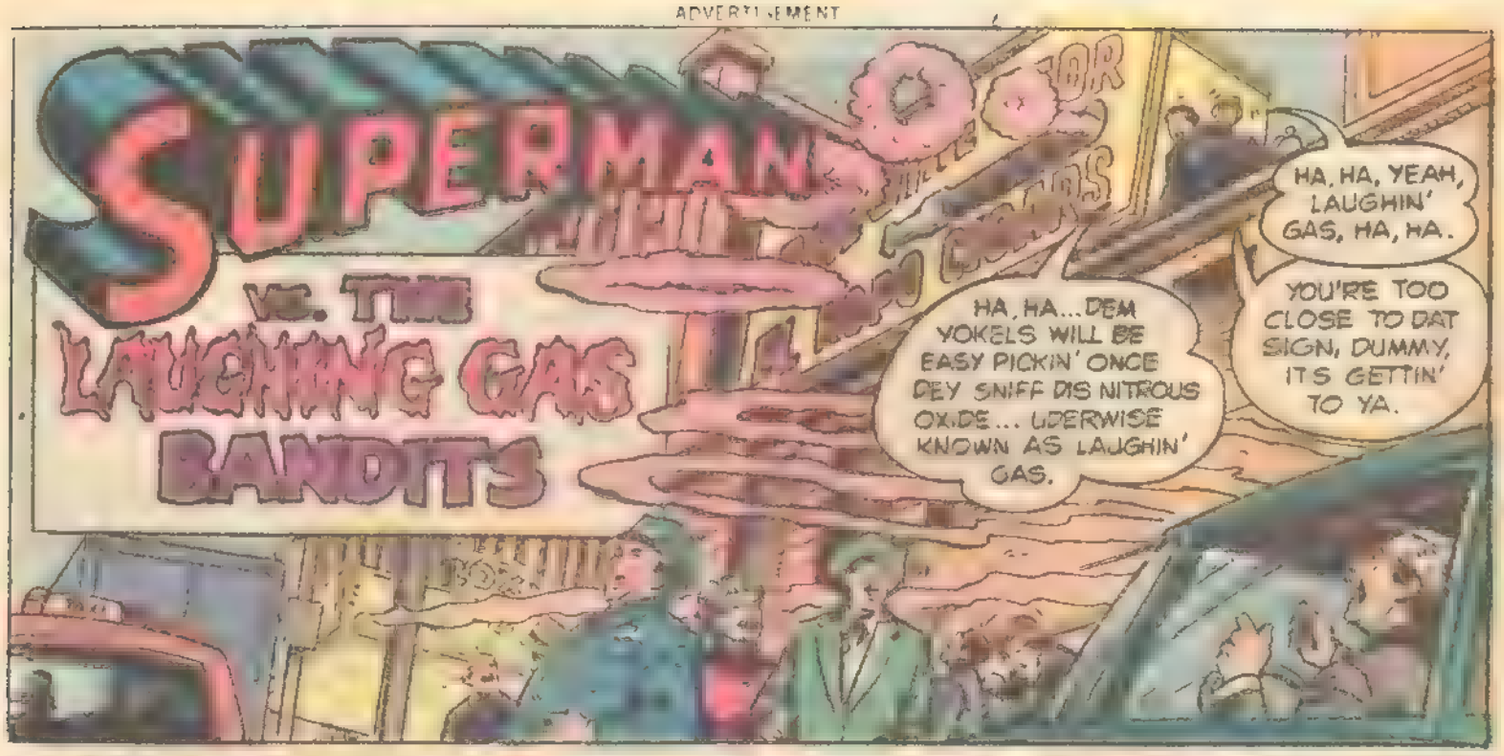
GO TO IT, PIERRE!
STOMP THOSE LOUSY-- HUH?
HEY, WHO'S THAT COMIN' ONTO THE RINK?
IF THIS IS A CRUMMY STAR CITY TRICK--!
SOMETHING STRANGE HAPPENS THEN:
THE BUILDING ROAR OF ANGER BREAKS OFF, AND THE CROWD FALLS SILENT, ALMOST AS THOUGH THEY ALL REALIZE, AT ONCE--
--THAT THIS NEW PLAYER IS NOT PART OF THE GAME...
13
HOT ICE! GET A LOOK AT THOSE SKATES--
THEY'RE JET-POWERED!
WHY DOESN'T THE REF TOSS THIS JOKER INTO THE PENALTY BOX?
SACRE DIEU! GET OFF THE ICE, WHOEVER YOU ARE--
--BEFORE PIERRE THROWS YOU OFF!

AW, BE A SPORT, PIERRE.
YOU THROW BASKETBALLS AT PIERRE?
CATCH!
13
5

YOU MUST BE TOUQUE-- CRAZY!
IS THIS SOME KIND OF A JO--

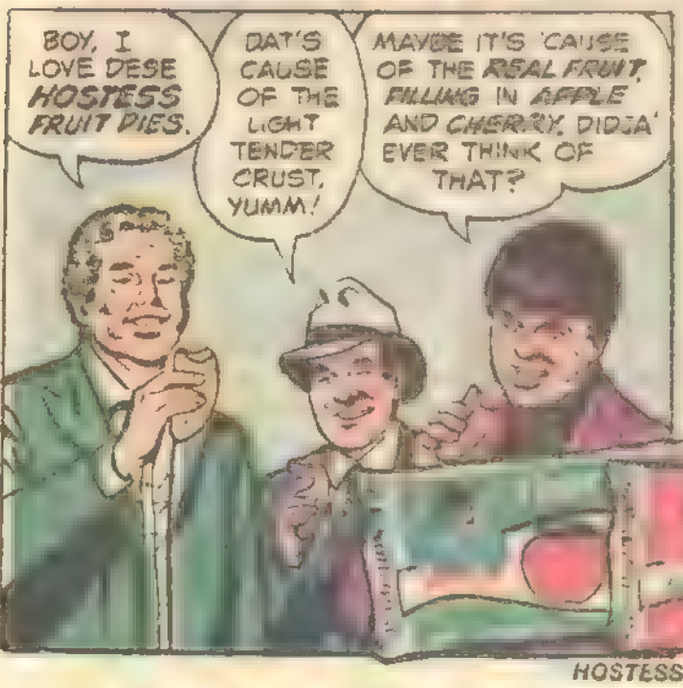
BRAMM!
OH MY GOD... PIERRE!
HE BLEW UP!
IT'S NO JOKE, PIERRE.
WHEN THE SPORTSMAN PLAYS A GAME--
--HE PLAYS FOR KEEPS!
ROOOM!
I'M RACKING UP ALL THE POINTS.
THE OTHER TEAMS AREN'T EVEN CLOSE.
I WOULDN'T BE TOO SURE OF THAT, PUNK.
I FIGURED YOUR PLAY TOO LATE TO SAVE FOOTE..
...BUT MAYBE NOT TOO LATE TO STOP YOU!
UNNH! BATMAN-- YOU'RE NOT PART OF MY GAME PLAN!
BUT THEN--
--A GOOD SPORTS-MAN--
--KNOWS HOW TO ROLL WITH THE PUNCHES--
--AND THEN STRIKE BACK!
UFFF!

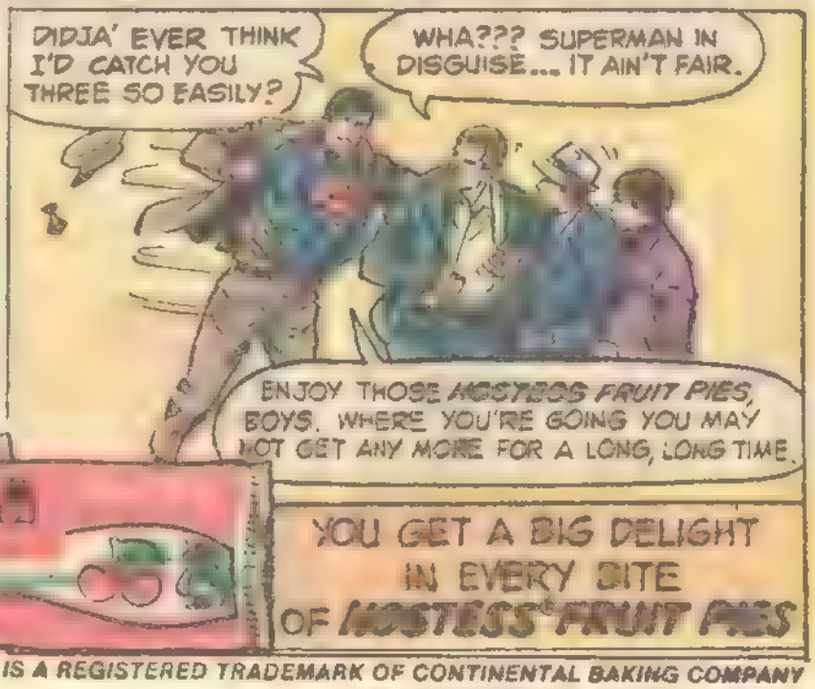
HONK HONK
HE HAS NO TIME TO THINK--
--ONLY TO REACT.
AND AS THEY HAVE SO MANY TIMES BEFORE--
--REFLEXES AND TRAINING SAVE HIS LIFE!
OH WOW!
BRAVO, BRAVO! OLGA KORBUT COULDN'T HAVE DONE IT BETTER, BATMAN!
I'LL HAVE TO ADD YOU TO MY LIST.
GULP!
GASP!
YOUR "LIST"-- SO THIS IS A KIND OF VENDETTA.
WHY? WHAT DID THOSE ATHLETES EVER DO TO YOU?
YOU MEAN, PERSONALLY?
WHY NOT A THING!
LET'S JUST SAY I'VE GOT A GRUDGE AGAINST THEIR PARTICULAR--
--RACKET!
SWISH!
GOOD LORD! THAT TENNIS RACKET YOU PULLED FROM YOUR JERSEY--
IT'S A BUZZSAW!
ZZZZZ
8


SUPERMAN
VS. THE
LAUGHING GAS
BANDITS
HA, HA... DEM YOKELS WILL BE EASY PICKIN' ONCE DEY SNIFF DIS NITROUS OXIDE... UDERWISE KNOWN AS LAUGHIN' GAS.
HA, HA, YEAH, LAUGHIN' GAS, HA, HA.
YOU'RE TOO CLOSE TO DAT SIGN, DUMMY, IT'S GETTIN' TO YA.

AND SUPERMAN UP DERE CAN'T TOUCH US 'CAUSE DIS LAUGHIN' GAS IS SPIKED WITH KRYPTONITE! HA, HA, HA.
HE'LL JUST HAVE TO FOIL SOME OTHER CRIME, FOR NOW.

SPEAKIN' OF DESSERTS, HERE'S A HOSTESS SALESMAN FALLIN' ALL OVER HIMSELF AND SPILLIN' HOSTESS® FRUIT PIES EVERYWHERE.
HA, HA
SO DON'T JUST STAND THERE LOOKIN' STUPID ...LET'S RELIEVE HIM OF HIS DELICIOUS BURDEN.
YEAH DELICIOUS, HA, HA.


BOY, I LOVE DESE HOSTESS FRUIT PIES.
DAT'S CAUSE OF THE LIGHT TENDER CRUST, YUMM!
MAYBE IT'S 'CAUSE OF THE REAL FRUIT FILLING IN APPLE AND CHERRY. DIDJA' EVER THINK OF THAT?


DIDJA' EVER THINK I'D CATCH YOU THREE SO EASILY?
WHA??? SUPERMAN IN DISGUISE... IT AIN'T FAIR.
ENJOY THOSE HOSTESS FRUIT PIES, BOYS. WHERE YOU'RE GOING YOU MAY NOT GET ANY MORE FOR A LONG, LONG TIME.

YOU GET A BIG DELIGHT IN EVERY BITE OF HOSTESS® FRUIT PIES

ALL CHARACTERS © DC COMICS INC. 1981

HOSTESS IS A REGISTERED TRADEMARK OF CONTINENTAL BAKING COMPANY
© 1981 CONTINENTAL BAKING COMPANY

IT'LL SLICE ME TO RIBBONS!
HAVE TO DODGE--!
THAT WAS A CLOSER SHAVE THAN I'D HAVE LIKED.
THIS SPORTSMAN CHARACTER MOVES FASTER THAN ANY MAN I'VE SEEN--EXCLUDING THE FLASH!
WHILE I DODGED, HE DUCKED OUT.
BUT THIS TIME, HE'S LEFT A POTENTIAL CLUE!
THE BATCAVE, UNDER THE WAYNE BUILDING, NOT LONG AFTER...
A VICIOUS AND DEADLY DEVICE MASTER BRUCE.
AND INGENIOUS, ALFRED. IT'S AN ORDINARY RACKET, WITH A CHAIN LOOP AROUND THE OUTSIDE AND A POWER SOURCE IN THE HANDLE. BUT LOOK AT THIS.
THE SPORTSMAN MAY BE A MECHANICAL GENIUS--BUT HE'S NOT VERY CLEVER.
HE LEFT A STORE LABEL ON THE HANDLE
THAT'S GOING TO COST HIM.
EVERY RELIGION HAS ITS HOLY PLACE AND THE MODERN RELIGION OF SPORTS IS NO EXCEPTION..
IN GOTHAM, ITS HOLY PLACE IS THE "SPORTS WORLD MALL," WHERE THE FAITHFUL MAY COME TO PURCHASE THE ATHLETE'S VERSION OF HAIR SHIRTS--NIKE RUNNING SHOES, ADIDAS SWEAT SUITS, GUCCI JOGGING DOGS, ET AL...
BRUCE WAYNE COMES TO THE MALL FOR ANOTHER REASON.
I'D LIKE TO RETURN THIS RACKET TO ITS OWNER.
BUT I DON'T HAVE HIS NAME. COULD YOU LOOK THROUGH YOUR SALES RECORDS?
9

OH NO, I COULDN'T DO THAT. OUR RECORDS ARE CONFIDENTIAL.
BUT IF YOU'D CARE TO LEAVE YOUR NAME, I MIGHT-- WAIT A MOMENT.
THAT RACKET ISN'T PART OF OUR REGULAR LINE.
EH? THAT SALESMAN-- I'VE SEEN HIS FACE BEFORE!
OF COURSE! THE CARETAKER AT GOTHAM STADIUM!
IT'S A TEST PIECE...
...PART OF A SHIPMENT THAT CAME IN ONLY TWO DAYS AGO.
PERHAPS YOU SHOULD TALK TO OUR BUYER, MARTIN MANTLE. HE WAS OVER THERE JUST A MOMENT AGO.
SIR?
WELL, HOW RUDE!
IT FITS... MANTLE MUST HAVE BEEN MASQUERADING AS THE STADIUM CARETAKER AND WAS INTENDING TO WIPE OUT HIS TRACKS WHEN I ARRIVED ON THE SCENE!
I NEVER NOTICED HIM, THEN--
--HE WAS JUST PART OF THE BACK-GROUND!
I SAW HIM COME THROUGH THIS DOOR, BUT WHERE--?
YAAAHH!
CAN'T LET HIM GET NEAR ME WITH THAT HOCKEY STICK--
--NOT AS BRUCE WAYNE!
MANTLE MUST BE A QUICK-CHANGE ARTIST...
...BUT I'VE HAD SOME EXPERIENCE IN THAT LINE MYSELF...
SLAM!!
... AND WHAT BRUCE WAYNE SHOULDN'T BE EQUIPPED TO HANDLE--
--IS THE BATMAN'S STOCK IN TRADE!
STRANGE, I EXPECTED HIM TO BREAK DOWN THAT DOOR...
...BUT ALL I HEAR-- IS A LOT OF SILENCE!

THIS IS THE SECOND TIME I'VE MISREAD THE SPORTSMAN'S INTENTIONS.
THERE WON'T BE A THIRD TIME.
HE'S GONE!
I WAS SURE HE'D RECOGNIZED ME FROM YESTERDAY MORNING AT THE STADIUM...
...AND JUDGING BY HIS WILD ATTACK, I THOUGHT HE'D BE CERTAIN TO KEEP AFTER BRUCE WAYNE UNTIL HE KILLED ME.
I WAS WRONG...YOU CAN'T SECOND-GUESS A LUNATIC!
SHOUTS COMING FROM THE MALL-- DEAR LORD, HE'S OUT THERE!
ONLY A FEW MINUTES AGO, THIS MONDAY-MORNING SHOPPING CROWD WAS A BUSY, HAPPY THRONG...
NOW IT IS A TERRIFIED MOB--
HE'S CRAZY!
KEEP AWAY FROM HIM!
WATCH OUT FOR THAT STICK!
HE'S TRYIN' TO KILL US!
--AS THE SPORTSMAN SLASHES THROUGH THE CROWD, LIKE A LUNATIC AVENGER SWINGING HIS SCYTHE!
YOU'RE ALL NO BETTER THAN THE IDIOT JOCKS YOU ADMIRE!
WORSHIPPING MUSCLE-- KILLING YOURSELVES IN THE NAME OF GOOD HEALTH!
YOU ALL DESERVE TO DIE!
AND YOU'RE HERE TO PLAY GRIM REAPER-- IS THAT IT, SPORTSMAN?
BATMAN!' SOONER OR LATER, I KNEW WE'D FACE OFF AGAIN!
I'VE PREPARED A SURPRISE FOR YOU...
SPORTS WORLD
11

AS TOM WATSON MIGHT SAY...
FORE!
THIS ISN'T THE GOTHAM OPEN, SPORTSMAN...
...SO FORGIVE ME IF I DON'T PLAY BY PGA RULES!
THWIP
BWHAM!
GAS! I THOUGHT IT MIGHT BE SOMETHING LIKE THAT, NOTHING EXPLOSIVE, THE WAY YOU BATTED THAT BALL!
THE FUMES ARE ALREADY DISSIPATING.
BUT IF THAT LITTLE CAPSULE HAD BURST NEAR ME, AS YOU EXPECTED--
--YOU MIGHT HAVE GOTTEN THE ACE IN ONE YOU WERE AIMING FOR!
AS IT IS, SPORTSMAN, YOU'VE TRAPPED OUT!
GUESS AGAIN, BATMAN!
WHAT--?
I SHOULD HAVE REALIZED YOU'D BE WEARING PROTECTIVE PADDING!
JUST LIKE THE PROS, BATMAN.
NOT VERY SPORTING IS IT?
I'M CAUGHT IN THE NET OF THIS AUTOMATIC BASEBALL PITCHER!
WHAT NOW?
WHAT DO YOU THINK?
2

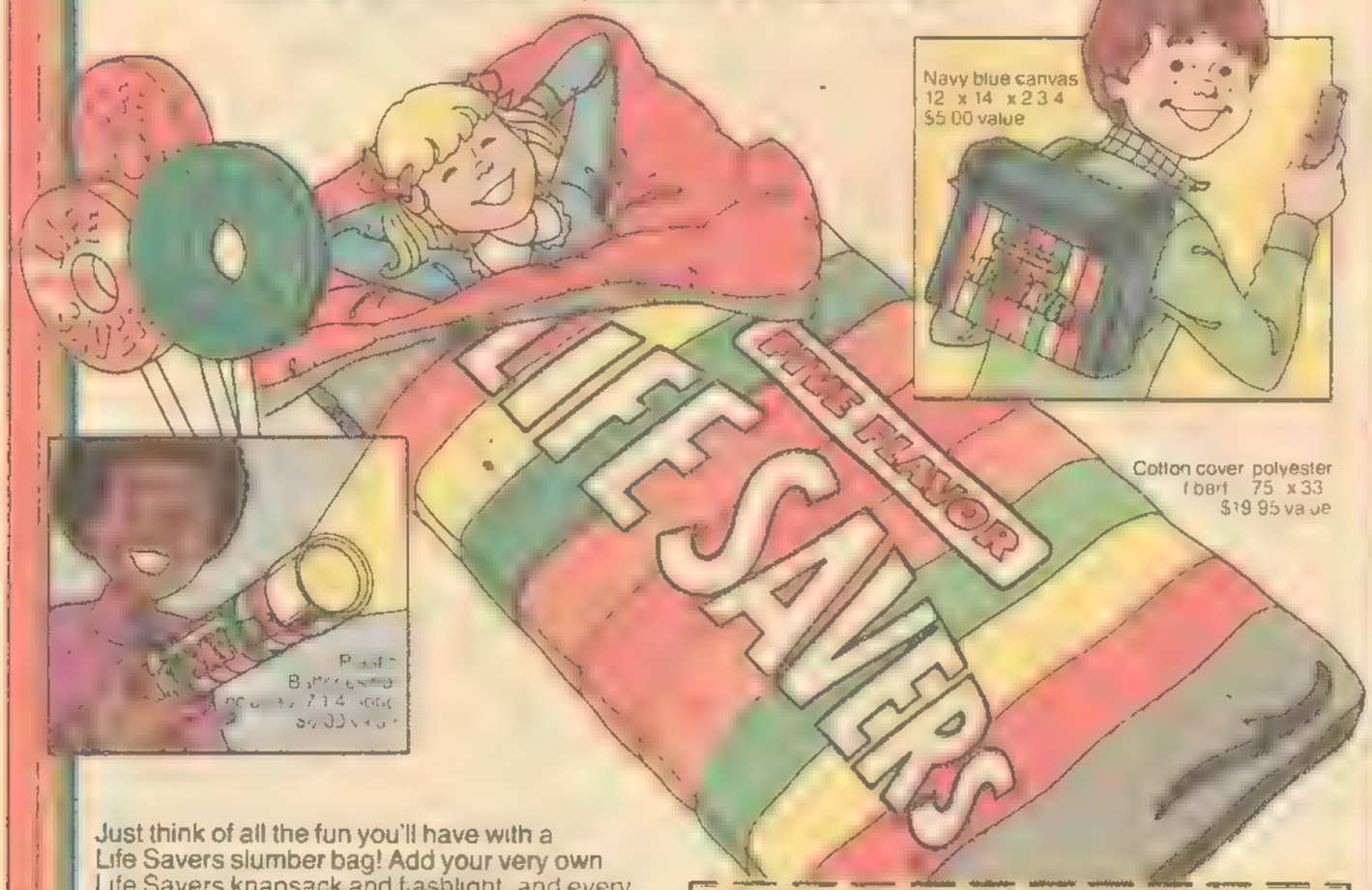
I WOULD HAVE THOUGHT YOU'D LIKE TO EXPLAIN YOURSELF BEFORE YOU KILLED ME. WHY THE MURDERS, SPORTSMAN?
WHY KILL ALL THOSE SPORTS FIGURES?
YOU WANT REASONS?
HERE'S MY REASON, BATMAN...
I'M KILLING THEM-- BECAUSE SPORTS IS KILLING ME!
"I WASN'T A VERY ATHLETIC KID... JUST AVERAGE, I GUESS; BUT AVERAGE WASN'T GOOD ENOUGH FOR MY FATHER. MARTIN MANTLE, SR., WASN'T ABOUT TO ACCEPT 'AVERAGE' FROM HIS ONLY SON..."
DAMN IT, BOY!
I TOLD YOU TO WATCH THE BALL!
GEE, DAD, I TRIED--!
I DON'T WANT YOU TO "TRY," YOU LITTLE WEAKLING...
I WANT YOU TO DO IT!
MARTIN!
SMACK!
THE CHILD'S DOING HIS BEST.. HE CAN'T HELP IT IF HE'S NOT A NATURAL ATHLETE!
IF I EVER SEE YOU HIT HIM AGAIN--
WHAT WILL YOU DO, LOUISA?
DRAG HIM CRYING HOME TO YOUR MOTHER?
YOU'RE INHUMAN, MARTIN! SOMETIMES I WONDER IF YOU'RE THE SAME MAN I MARRIED!
AND SOMETIMES I WONDER IF I EVER REALLY KNEW YOU AT ALL!
GO AHEAD, WHINE. YOU'RE TURNING OUR SON INTO A WHINER, JUST LIKE YOU!
I CAN'T BE BOTHERED WITH THIS-- I'VE GOT WORK TO DO.
"FATHER'S WORK WAS SPORTS MEDICINE. HE WAS ONE OF THE EARLY PROPONENTS OF STEROIDS TO BUILD AN ATHLETE'S MUSCLES...
"HE HAD OTHER IDEAS, AS WELL--

CONTINUED ON 2ND PAGE FOLLOWING.

LIFE SAVERS®

LOTS OF FUN AND FLAVORS!

Roll up in your very own Life Savers roll, and dream of all your favorite Life Savers flavors!



Navy blue canvas
12 x 14 x 2 3 4
$5 00 value

Cotton cover polyester
fiberfill 75 x 33
$19 95 value

Just think of all the fun you'll have with a Life Savers slumber bag! Add your very own Life Savers knapsack and flashlight, and every day can be a new Life Savers adventure! Get one or get them all. Here's how to order:

TO ORDER Write the total number of each item you want in the proper boxes on the order form Fill in the form with your name and address and send it along with a check or money order payable to **Life Savers Premium.** Include 1 Life Savers® Roll Candy wrapper or 3 Life Savers® Lollipop wrappers for each item ordered and send to: **Life Savers Premium, P.O. BOX 7680, Stratmar Station, Bridgeport, Conn. 06650.**

Offer available in USA except where taxed prohibited, or otherwise restricted *All prices include postage and handling Allow 8 weeks for delivery Offer good through December 31, 1981 Do not send cash

TO Life Savers Premium P.O. Box 7680, Stratmar Station, Bridgeport Conn 06650

Please send me the following items I have enclosed 1 Life Savers Roll Candy wrapper or 3 Life Savers Lollipop wrappers for each item ordered

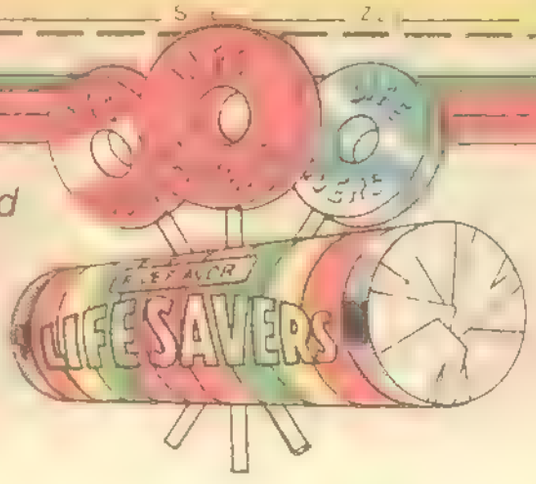
ITEM		QUANTITY	TOTAL
Slumber bag(s)	$12 50 ea		$
Knapsack(s)	$ 2 90 ea		$
Flashlight(s)	$ 3 50 ea		$
Connecticut Residents 7½% sales tax		Total	$

Name _____

Address _____

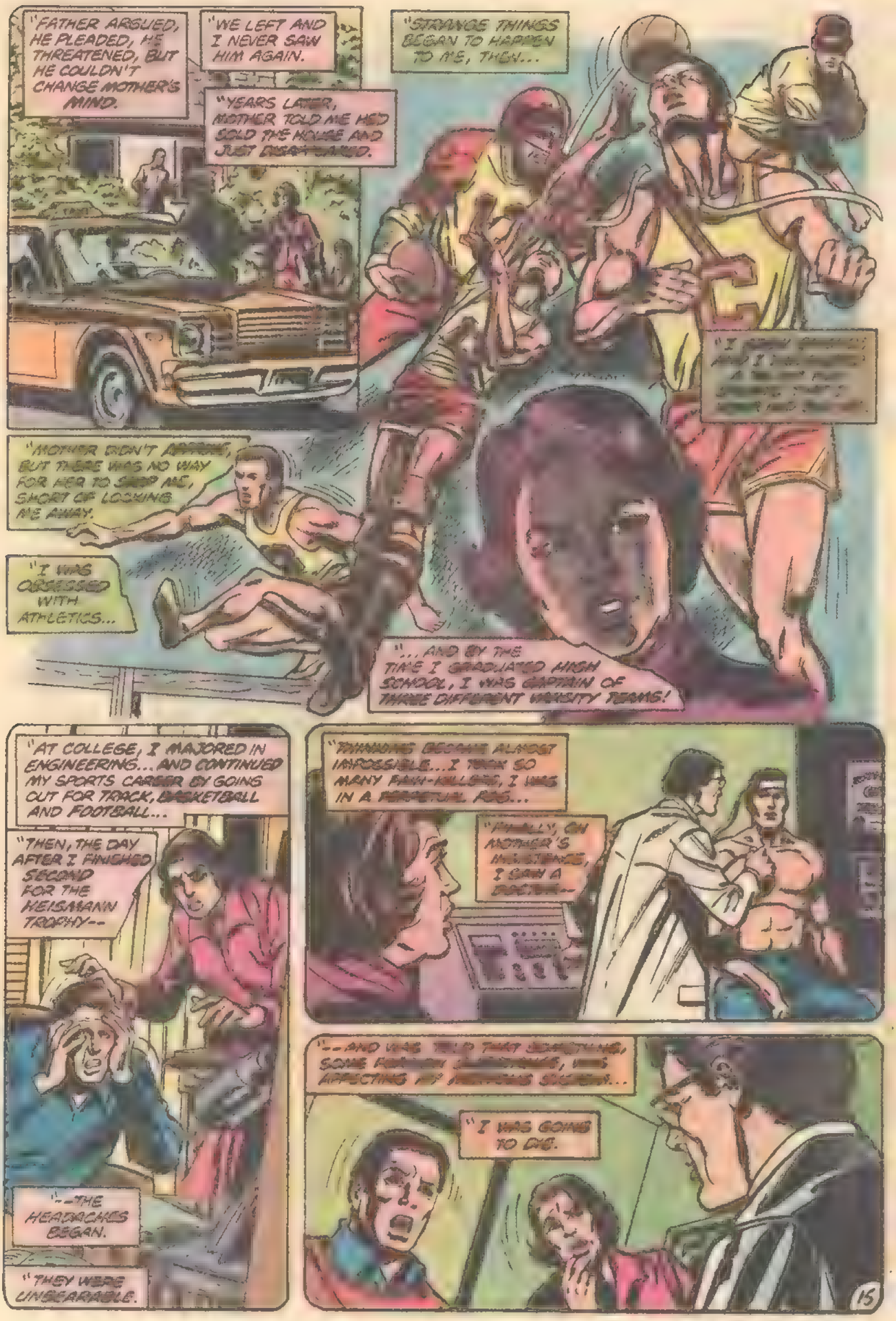
City _____ State _____ Zip _____

© 1981 Life Savers Inc



Life Savers Roll Candy and Lollipops. Lots of flavors for you, and lots of fun things to do!

'--IDEAS THAT WOULD HAVE MADE HIM AN OUTCAST IN THE MEDICAL WORLD, IF HE'D EVER REVEALED THEM...
"FATHER BELIEVED THAT ATHLETIC ABILITY COULD BE 'LEARNED' BY AN UNATHLETIC BODY, THROUGH INJECTIONS OF RNA -- THE 'MEMORY' CHEMICAL PRESENT IN ALL LIVING THINGS...
"BY TAKING RNA FROM THE TISSUES OF A TRUE ATHLETE, AND INTRODUCING IT INTO A NON-ATHLETE'S BLOODSTREAM, FATHER HOPED TO PRODUCE A PSEUDO-ATHLETE..
'...AND NATURALLY, THE FIRST PERSON HE DECIDED TO TEST HIS THEORIES ON WAS HIS OWN SON...
LIE STILL, YOU LITTLE CRY-BABY!
THIS IS GOING TO MAKE A MAN OUT OF YOU-- LIE STILL, I TELL YOU!
DADDY, NO! IT HURTS!
"MOTHER ALLST ANNE HEARD ME SCREAMING... AND SHE WAS SHOCKED SPEECHLESS BY WHAT SHE SAW WHEN SHE RUSHED TO MY ROOM..."
"MY FATHER SEEMED TO COME OUT OF IT THEN, LIKE A MAN SHAKING OFF A DREAM...
LOUISA... I KNOW WHAT YOU MUST BE THINKING!
I SWEAR IT'S FOR MARTY'S OWN GOOD--
YOU-- MONSTER!
I DON'T KNOW WHAT YOU THOUGHT YOU WERE DOING, MARTIN...
FRANKLY, I DON'T CARE. I THINK YOU NEED PSYCHIATRIC HELP.
BUT I DON'T INTEND TO STAY HERE WITH MARTIN WHILE YOU GET IT.
WE'RE LEAVING.
14


"FATHER ARGUED, HE PLEADED, HE THREATENED, BUT HE COULDN'T CHANGE MOTHER'S MIND.
"WE LEFT AND I NEVER SAW HIM AGAIN.
"YEARS LATER, MOTHER TOLD ME HE'D SOLD THE HOUSE AND JUST DISAPPEARED.
"STRANGE THINGS BEGAN TO HAPPEN TO ME, THEN...
"I
"MOTHER DIDN'T APPROVE, BUT THERE WAS NO WAY FOR HER TO KEEP ME, SHORT OF LOCKING ME AWAY.
"I WAS OBSESSED WITH ATHLETICS...
"... AND BY THE TIME I GRADUATED HIGH SCHOOL, I WAS CAPTAIN OF THREE DIFFERENT VARSITY TEAMS!
"AT COLLEGE, I MAJORED IN ENGINEERING... AND CONTINUED MY SPORTS CAREER BY GOING OUT FOR TRACK, BASKETBALL AND FOOTBALL...
"THEN, THE DAY AFTER I FINISHED SECOND FOR THE HEISMANN TROPHY--
"--THE HEADACHES BEGAN.
"THEY WERE UNBEARABLE.
"THINKING BECAME ALMOST IMPOSSIBLE... I TOOK SO MANY PAIN-KILLERS, I WAS IN A PERPETUAL FOG...
"FINALLY, ON MOTHER'S INSISTENCE, I SAW A DOCTOR...
"--AND WAS TOLD THAT SOMETHING, SOME PERVERSE GLITCH IN MY BRAIN, WAS AFFECTING MY PERCEPTUAL SYSTEMS...
"I WAS GOING TO DIE.
15

"IT WAS DAD'S MEMORY RNA, OF COURSE.
"I REALIZED THEN WHAT I'D ALWAYS KNOWN IN MY HEART--
"--MY ATHLETIC ABILITY WAS A CHEMICAL-INDUCED SHAM!
"NOW IT WAS KILLING ME--SO I BECAME THE SPORTSMAN! I COULDN'T REPAY FATHER FOR WHAT HE'D DONE--"
--SO I DID THE NEXT BEST THING!
I USED MY ENGINEERING SKILLS TO CREATE MY COSTUME AND WEAPONS.
NOW I TAKE MY REVENGE ON THE SPORTS WORLD--
--AND I PLAY MY GAME FOR KEEPS!
MANTLE, YOU'RE SICK...!
YOU NEED HELP.. MEDICAL HELP.
GIVE ME THE STICK. LET ME TAKE YOU TO A HOSPITAL.
OH, I'LL GIVE YOU THE STICK, ALL RIGHT, BATMAN--
--BUT THE ONLY PLACE YOU'RE GOING IS TO THE GOTHAM MORGUE!
I DIDN'T WANT TO DO IT THIS WAY, MANTLE.
BUT YOU WROTE THE RULES...
CHCK
16

BOK
POWW
...SO YOU CALLED THE GAME!
EPILOGUE:
...I SEE, BATMAN. SO YOU FAKED YOUR HELPLESSNESS?
I COULD HAVE PULLED FREE OF THAT NET IN A MOMENT, COMMISSIONER.
WHEN I REALIZED THAT THE SPORTSMAN--OR MANTLE, RATHER--HAD LINED UP WITH THAT AUTOMATIC BASEBALL PITCHER--
--I KNEW I HAD AN OPPORTUNITY TO PROVOKE A CONFESSION
I MEANT WHAT I SAID, MANTLE. YOU'RE ILL... AND NOT JUST PHYSICALLY.
BLAMING STRANGERS FOR YOUR OWN MISFORTUNE...
GO AHEAD, LECTURE ME.
IN A FEW MONTHS I'LL BE DEAD.
THERE'S ALWAYS HOPE, MANTLE.
IF YOU DO SURVIVE, YOU'LL PAY FOR YOUR CRIMES...
WHAT WILL YOUR LECTURES MATTER THEN, BATMAN?
YOUR ILLNESS MAY NOT BE INCURABLE.
... AND IT WOULD BE BETTER IF YOU KNEW NOW.
17

ONCE HE WAS ONE OF THE FLYING GRAYSONS, ACROBATS SUPREME. THEN HIS PARENTS WERE MURDERED AND HE HELPED BATMAN AVENGE THEIR DEATHS... BECOMING FIRST A BOY WONDER, AND NOW...
ROBIN
THE TEEN WONDER
"MURDER AT THE MIDWAY PART TWO"
FROM DICK GRAYSON'S DIARY:
I'D WAIT IN THE DARKNESS OF THE HALL CIRCUS'S BIG TOP FOR MOST OF THE NIGHT, HOPING THAT THE KILLER WHO'D FRAMED MY FRIEND WALDO THE CLOWN FOR THE MURDER OF JO-JO JONES WOULD RETURN TO THE SCENE OF HIS CRIME...
A MOVEMENT IN THE RING BELOW HAD CAUGHT MY EYE, AND I DROPPED TO THE SAWDUST FLOOR TO SEE IF I'D FOUND THE MURDERER.
WHAT I FOUND WAS ANOTHER SHOCK!
LOURNA HILL ...THE CIRCUS OWNER...
YOU'RE THE MURDERER?
THE NIGHT WASN'T OVER YET...
KILLER UNDER THE BIG TOP!
1

ROBIN! I DON'T KNOW WHAT YOU'RE DOING HERE IN SARATOGA--
--AND I CERTAINLY DON'T KNOW WHAT YOU RE TALKING ABOUT!
I'M TALKING ABOUT THAT THING IN YOUR HAND, MS HILL.
A MAN WAS GUNNED DOWN HERE THIS AFTERNOON, WHILE A FRIEND OF MINE, DICK GRAYSON, WAS AUDITIONING AS AN AERIALIST FOR YOUR SHOW!
JO-JO JONES WAS MURDERED IN COLD BLOOD--
--AND GRAYSON'S FRIEND WALDO FLYNN WAS CAUGHT WITH A SMOKING GUN IN HIS HAND.
THIS MIGHT HAVE PROVED HIM INNOCENT--THIS BULLET YOU FOUND IN THE SAWDUST.
IT'S WHAT YOU CAME HERE TO FIND, ISN'T IT?
TO HIDE YOUR OWN GUILT!
NO, YOU'RE WRONG! IT'S TRUE I SLIPPED IN HERE PAST THE POLICE GUARDS OUTSIDE...
...BUT I ONLY WANT TO HELP WALDO! HE'S A FRIEND.
HE S-- OH MY GOD!
WHERE DID THEY COME FROM?
GRROWW
GRAARRR
GRU
AARRRR
I DIDN'T REALLY EXPECT AN ANSWER--BY THAT TIME, THE TWO CATS WERE MOVING--
--AND SO WAS I!
2

SOMEONE FREED THESE CATS FOR A REASON...
LOOKS LIKE THIS CLEARS YOU, MS. HILL.
... AND THAT REASON MUST HAVE BEEN TO KILL US!
ROOWWW
THE ONLY PERSON WHO COULD POSSIBLY WANT US DEAD--
--S THE REAL KILLER!
EH? LOURNA, WATCH OUT FOR THAT TIGER--
AARG
DOWN
--IT'S HEADING YOUR WAY!
HUH?
OLD CARNY HANDS LEARN HOW TO DEAL WITH THE BIG CATS, ROBIN.
BUT YOU'D BETTER HURRY--
I SAW SOMEONE RUN OUT THAT SLIT IN THE TENT!
NOW I'M CONFUSED!
LOURNA WAS NEVER IN DANGER FROM THOSE CATS--
--BUT I WAS SO WAS SOMEONE TRYING TO KILL JUST ME?
THERE'S SOMEONE RUNNING AWAY!
A BATARANG WILL BRING HIM DOWN...
UNH
...AND THEN WE'LL SEE WHO I'VE--WHAT?
MAGNIFICENT MELANIE, THE LION TAMER!
I-I COULDN'T LET YOU RAILROAD HIM!
3

RAILROAD WHO?
NO, NEVER MIND THAT.
YOU WERE SEEN ARGUING WITH JO-JO JONES JUST BEFORE HE WAS SHOT.*
YOU KILLED HIM-- AND SOMEHOW FRAMED WALDO FOR HIS MURDER!
THAT'S NOT TRUE!
YES, JO-JO AND I ARGUED, BUT I DIDN'T SHOOT HIM..
*LAST ISSUE. --DG.
...AND I CERTAINLY NEVER WOULD HAVE FRAMED WALDO!
I LOVE WALDO!
WE'RE GOING TO BE MARRIED!
NOW I REALLY AM CONFUSED!
WHY WERE YOU AND JO-JO FIGHTING?
BEFORE WALDO JOINED THE CIRCUS, JO-JO AND I WERE . WELL, WE WERE AN ITEM.
JO-JO NEVER ACCEPTED THAT ALL OF THAT WAS OVER.
OKAY... SO FAR SO GOOD, I GUESS. THEN WHY DID YOU SEND THOSE CATS TO ATTACK LOURNA HILL AND ME?
I THOUGHT YOU WERE WORKING WITH THE POLICE TO BLAME WALDO FOR JO-JO'S DEATH.
I-I GUESS I WENT KIND OF CRAZY
YOU'RE GOING CRAZY?
LADY, I'M SO MIXED UP RIGHT NOW, I WOULDN'T BE SURPRISED TO LEARN THAT JO-JO SHOT HIMSELF!
4

"America's Greatest Family Newspaper Since 1882"

We are looking for a few Good Boys and Girls

Who would like to —

Earn their own spending money

Earn neat prizes

Gain practical business experience

By [illegible] GRIT Friends, Relatives [illegible]

GRIT Will Help You Start Your Own Business

You can be among the thousands of boys and girls in small cities and towns all across America who earn their own spending money every week by introducing GRIT to their family, friends and neighbors. GRIT will help you get started in a profitable business of your own by sending you papers, all the supplies you'll need, and suggestions on how and where to begin. GRIT will assist you in every way to make this a happy, successful and profitable venture. HURRY! SIGN UP NOW.

State law requires cowboys and girls to be 10 years or older, 12 years or older in the cases of AL, DE, LA, MA, MO, NJ, NY, NC, PA, RI, VA and WI.

[illegible] CO
[illegible], PA 17701

Papers sent only in the Continental U.S.

Fill Out and Mail This Coupon In An Envelope Today

GRIT PUBLISHING CO., Williamsport, PA 17701

Please send me all the details and ..... copies each week to start my own GRIT route. NC-51

(PRINT)

Name .....

In Care of .....

Address .....

Town ..... State ..... ZIP .....

Age ..... Date of Birth ..... Month Day Year

☐ Male ☐ Female Please Print Your Last Name Plainly Below

Signature of Parent or Guardian .....

TM and © DC COMICS INC. 1979

WITH PURCHASE

[illegible]

BY GEORGE PEREZ

MENTION THIS AD.

ONE PER PERSON
OFFER GOOD
UNTIL SEPT. 15, 1981

WE ALSO BUY!

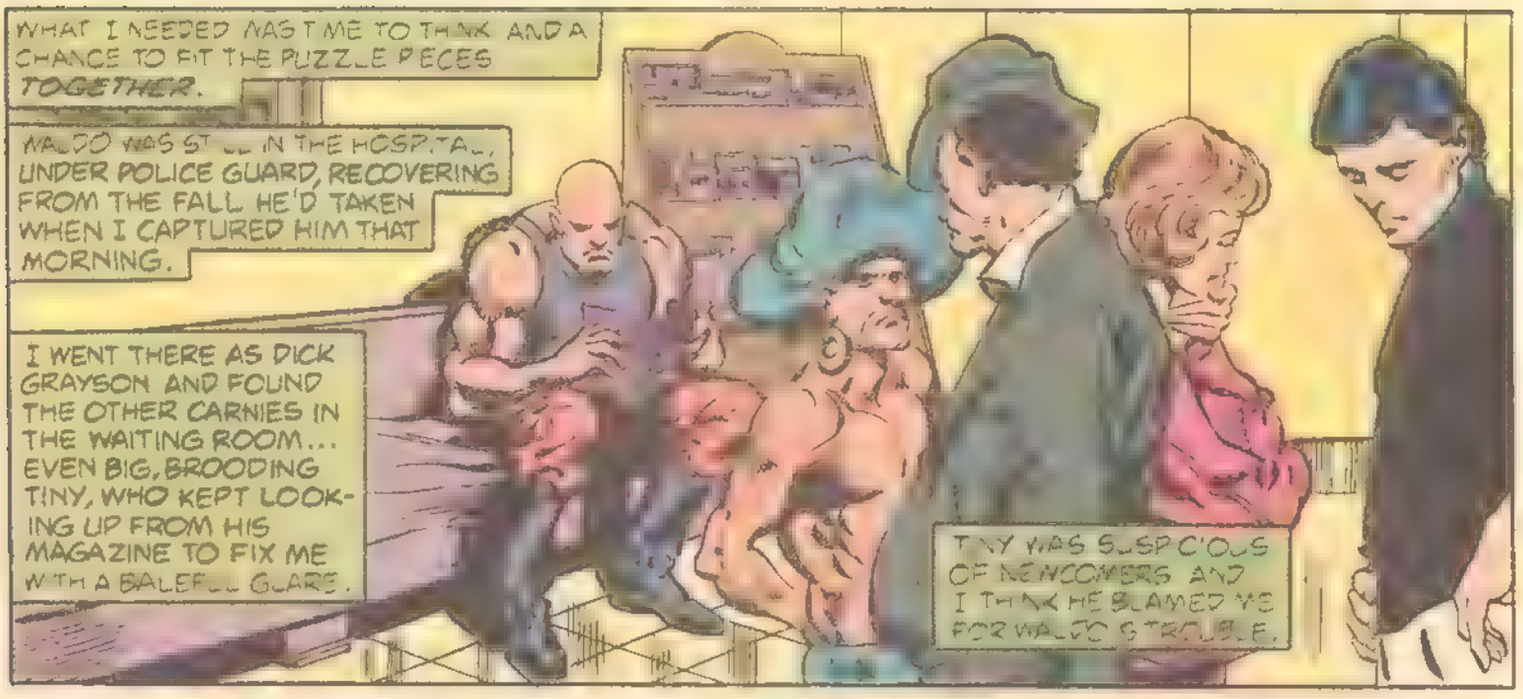
CAN'T FIND DC COMICS ON THE WEST COAST?

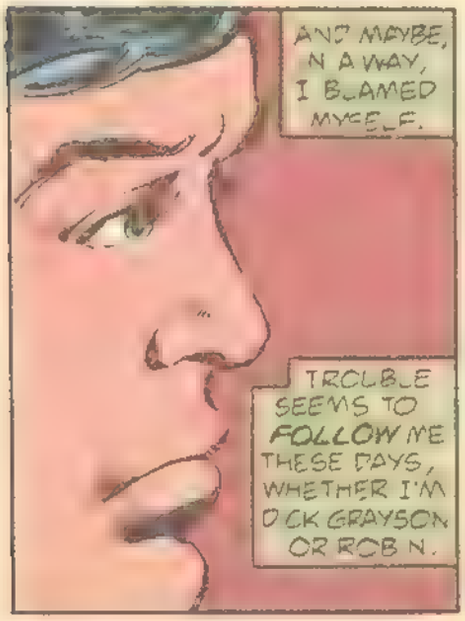
YOU CAN AT THESE INDEPENDENTLY OWNED COMIC BOOK STORES.

NORTHERN CALIFORNIA			
BERKELEY:	FUNNY PAGES	2512 Telegraph Ave. 94704	(415) 849-1179
DUBLIN:	DON'S COMICS & RECORDS	7198 Regional Ave. 94566	(415) 829-6533
FRESNO:	ALPHA OMEGA	2373 East Shaw 93701	(209) 221-6600
:	WONDERLAND	418 Blackstone 93701	(209) 264-3650
LIVERMORE:	QUAKE COMICS	2175 First St. 94550	(415) 449-0112
OAKLAND:	COMICOLLECTORS	140 14th St. 94612	(415) 763-4295
SAN FRANCISCO:	COMICS EXCHANGE	1610 Irving St. 94122	(415) 661-5541
:	FUNNY PAGES	Pier 39 Space M-1 94133	(415) 434-4045
:	GAMEMASTERS HOBBIES	4027 Geary Blvd. 94113	(415) 387-4118
:	S.F. COMIC COMPANY	3339 23rd St. 94110	(415) 648-9738
SAN JOSE:	COMIC COLLECTOR SHOP	73 E. San Fernando 95113	(408) 287-2264
SEASIDE:	PENINSULA COMICS	1725-B Fremont St. 93955	(408) 394-0999
WALNUT CREEK:	DON'S COMICS & RECORDS	2678 N. Main St. 94596	(415) 933-1234
SOUTHERN CALIFORNIA			
GARDEN GROVE:	FANTASY ILLUSTRATED	12536 Harbor Blvd. 92640	(714) 537-0087
LAWNDALE:	BOB'S COMICS	14721 Hawthorne 90260	(213) 679-7352
LOS ANGELES:	GOLDEN APPLE	7753 Melrose Ave. 90046	(213) 658-6047
SAN DIEGO:	COMIC KINGDOM	1029 University Ave. 92103	(714) 291-1515
SANTA MARIA:	MARKCRAF'S COMICS	113 W. Church 93454	(805) 925-7470
OREGON			
PORTLAND:	FUTURE DREAMS	1300 E. Burnside 97214	(503) 231-80[illegible]
WASHINGTON			
SEATTLE:	GOLDEN AGE COMICS	1501 Pike Pl. Mkt. 98101	(206) 622-9799
:	WALLY'S BOOKS & COMICS	128 Commercial, Kirkland	(206) 822-7033
AND IN CANADA:	GOLDEN AGE COMICS	830 Granville Vancouver	(604) 683-2819

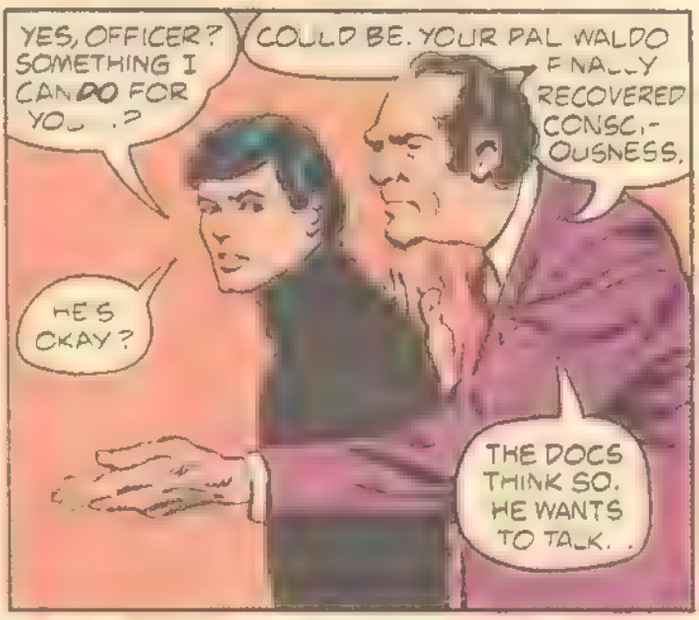
MISSED AN ISSUE ON THE STANDS? ALL OF THESE STORES STOCK OLD COMICS AND JUST MAY HAVE THAT ELUSIVE ISSUE YOU'RE LOOKING FOR

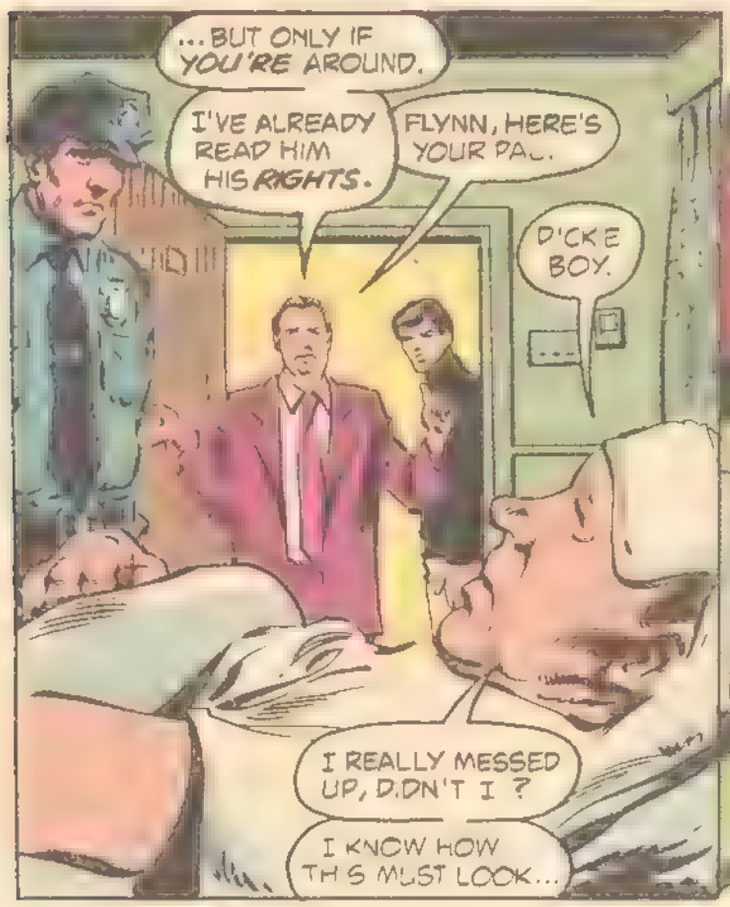
This advertisement brought to you by THE FUNNY PAGES, Berkeley California

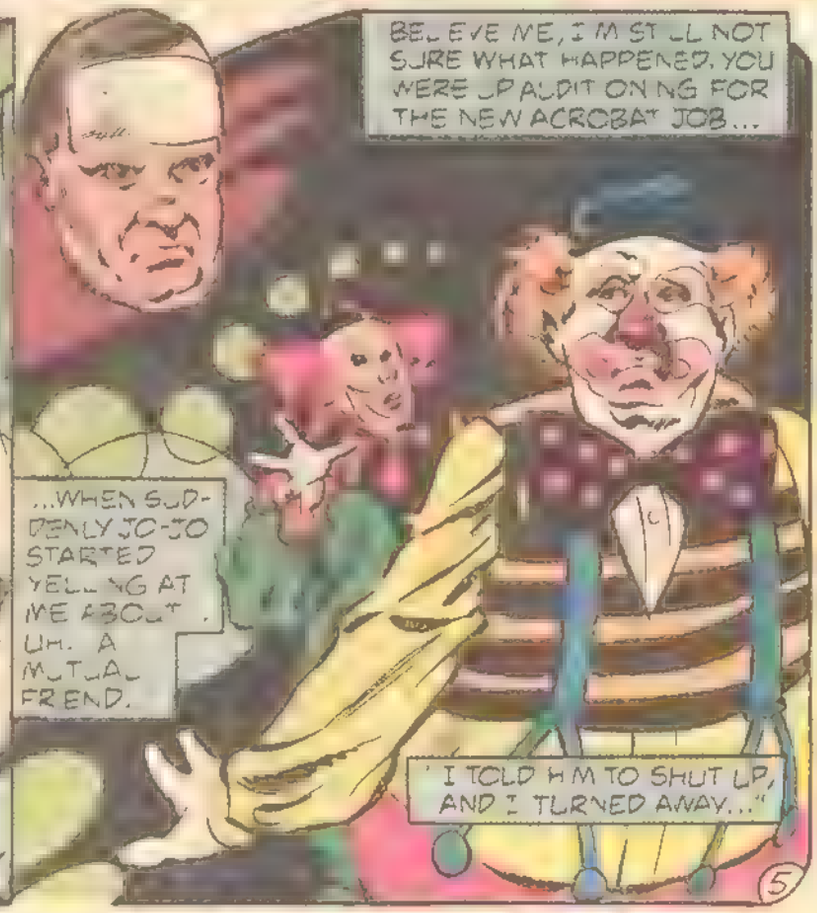

WHAT I NEEDED WAS TIME TO THINK AND A CHANCE TO FIT THE PUZZLE PIECES TOGETHER.
WALDO WAS STILL IN THE HOSPITAL, UNDER POLICE GUARD, RECOVERING FROM THE FALL HE'D TAKEN WHEN I CAPTURED HIM THAT MORNING.
I WENT THERE AS DICK GRAYSON AND FOUND THE OTHER CARNIES IN THE WAITING ROOM... EVEN BIG, BROODING TINY, WHO KEPT LOOKING UP FROM HIS MAGAZINE TO FIX ME WITH A BALEFUL GLARE.
TINY WAS SUSPICIOUS OF NEWCOMERS AND I THINK HE BLAMED ME FOR WALDO'S TROUBLE.


AND MAYBE, IN A WAY, I BLAMED MYSELF.
TROUBLE SEEMS TO FOLLOW ME THESE DAYS, WHETHER I'M DICK GRAYSON OR ROBIN.

I'D COME TO THE CIRCUS TO REDISCOVER MY ROOTS.
INSTEAD, I'D REDISCOVERED THE DARK SIDE OF MY LIFE
HEY, SONNY--GRAYSON.


YES, OFFICER? SOMETHING I CAN DO FOR YOU...?
COULD BE. YOUR PAL WALDO FINALLY RECOVERED CONSCIOUSNESS.
HE'S OKAY?
THE DOCS THINK SO. HE WANTS TO TALK.


...BUT ONLY IF YOU'RE AROUND.
I'VE ALREADY READ HIM HIS RIGHTS.
FLYNN, HERE'S YOUR PAL.
DICKIE BOY.
I REALLY MESSED UP, DIDN'T I?
I KNOW HOW THIS MUST LOOK...


BELIEVE ME, I'M STILL NOT SURE WHAT HAPPENED. YOU WERE UP AUDITIONING FOR THE NEW ACROBAT JOB...
...WHEN SUDDENLY JO-JO STARTED YELLING AT ME ABOUT UH. A MUTUAL FRIEND.
"I TOLD HIM TO SHUT UP, AND I TURNED AWAY..."

"THAT'S WHEN HE CALLED MY NAME. I LOOKED AROUND, AND THERE WAS THIS GUN FLYING TOWARD ME.
JUST BY REFLEX, I GRABBED IT
POW
. AND THAT'S WHEN I WENT OFF.
JO-JO CLUTCHED HIS CHEST AND DROPPED LIKE A SANDBAG.
BUT THE WEIRD THING IS, THE GUN WASN'T EVEN POINTED AT HIM!
I COULDN'T HAVE SHOT HIM EVEN BY ACCIDENT
"THAT'S WHEN YOU CAME AFTER ME.
I PANICKED. I RAN.
"NOW THAT I KNOW HOW IT MUST HAVE LOOKED, I FEEL LIKE A JERK.
.BUT I SWEAR TO YOU, I NEVER SHOT JO-JO JONES.
SOMEBODY DID, FLYNN, AND YOU'RE THE ONLY SUSPECT WE'VE GOT WHO WAS SEEN HOLDING A SHOOTING GUN.
TOO BAD THE BULLET MISS HILL FOUND IN THE BIG TOP WAS TOO BADLY SMASHED FOR FORENSICS TO MATCH WITH YOUR GUN...
BUT THAT DOESN'T CHANGE THE CASE AGAINST YOU!
MAYBE IT DOES, OFFICER TO BE SURE...ROBIN WILL HAVE TO VISIT THE HOSPITAL MORGUE!
I CHANGED INTO MY COSTUME IN A THIRD FLOOR REST ROOM AND WENT DOWN THE OUTSIDE WALL TO THE FIRST FLOOR WINDOW
THE MEDICAL EXAMINER HAD JUST FINISHED THE AUTOPSY ON JONES' BODY
DOCTOR, WHAT YOU'VE JUST TOLD ME FITS WITH WHAT I'D GUESSED.
6

IT GIVES ME A MOTIVE FOR HIS MURDER.
NOW ALL I NEED IS TO FIND THE WEAPON THAT KILLED HIM!
I KNEW WHAT I WAS LOOKING FOR, AND I HAD A FAIR IDEA WHERE TO FIND IT...
IT WOULD BE INSIDE THE BIG TOP, IN THE BLEACHERS OVERLOOKING THE THE MAIN RING
ENTERING THE TENT, I LET MY GUARD SLIP--
--AND THAT WAS THE MISTAKE THAT ALMOST KILLED ME!
ARRRK!
I LASHED OUT INSTINCTIVELY... FELT CARTILAGE GIVE WAY UNDER THE IMPACT OF HEEL AGAINST KNEECAP...
--AND INTO MY FACE!
WHAM
...AND AS MY ATTACKER GRUNTED IN PAIN, LOOSENING HIS GRIP, I FOLLOWED UP WITH A THROW THAT GOT HIM OFF MY BACK--
IT WAS TINY, THE NOT-TOO-BRIGHT CIRCUS STRONGMAN.
MISS LOURNA TOLD ME TO COME BACK HERE-- WATCH OUT FOR ANY-BODY SNEAKING AROUND!
I ALWAYS DO WHAT MISS LOURNA SAYS!
7

THAK
EVEN WHEN... IT MEANS... BREAKING MY BACK?
SORRY, TINY--BUT MY SPINE AND I ARE PRETTY ATTACHED!
WE'D HATE TO BE SEPARATED.
UHH... HEY!
I'D LOVE TO STICK AROUND AND TRADE VERBAL WITTICISMS WITH YOU, BIG GUY...
...BUT I CAME HERE TO FIND EVIDENCE IN A MURDER CASE.
THE CLEVER REPARTEE WILL JUST HAVE TO WAIT.
I FOUND IT IN THE BLEACHERS--
--RIGHT WHERE I EXPECTED, UNDER A SEAT.
A COMPRESSED-AIR GUN, AIMED DIRECTLY AT THE SPOT WHERE JO-JO WAS STANDING THIS AFTERNOON...
...AND FIXED WITH A TIMER.
THIS GUN KILLED JO-JO. WALDO WAS FRAMED.
-- EPILOGUE --
...SO YOU SEE, WALDO, ROBIN EXPLAINED EVERYTHING.
YOUR PISTOL WAS SET WITH A HAIR TRIGGER... AND LOADED WITH A BLANK.
JO-JO WAS CRAZY WITH JEALOUSY-- HE WANTED REVENGE BECAUSE...
...YOU PLANNED TO MARRY MELANIE. THE CORONER TOLD ME JO-JO HAD TERMINAL CANCER.
OBVIOUSLY, WHEN JO-JO DISCOVED HE HAD ONLY A FEW WEEKS TO LIVE HE DECIDED TO SACRIFICE THOSE WEEKS--
--BY PLANNING AND EXECUTING HIS OWN MURDER!
THE POLICE HAVE DROPPED ALL CHARGES AGAINST YOU, DARLING!
HEY, FOLKS, GUESS WHAT?
YOU'RE ABOUT TO SEE A CLOWN CRY...
THE END
8

Dear Editor,

This is the 12th letter that I have written to a comic book and I hope it is worthy of print, because my last 11 obviously were not.

While reading "The China Syndrome" several questions came up.

1-PAGE 4: When Mr. Gustav told Batman that he had seen through his disguise, why did Batman waste his time taking off his disguise? This procedure was both time consuming and risky. This change must of been quite amusing to Gustav.

2-PAGE 9 PANEL 6: When did Bruce Wayne get a bat insignia tattooed on his chest?

3-PAGE 12 PANEL 1: Why can't Bruce Wayne put 1 and 2 together? Mr. Gustav sent the killers and Mr. Gustav knows Batman's secret ID, which he learned from page 3 (via the fingerprint scan).

4-PAGE 17 PANEL 5: I thought Batman was a fast thinker, but I was proved wrong. Why didn't Bruce Wayne stop the gas at its source by stuffing his handkerchief into the hole that the gas was seeping out of?

Issue 333 wasn't a total loss thanks to "Shanghaied" and the pun on page 8. The pun being having the story end with a needle heading toward Robin and then stating NEEDLEss to say: to be continued.

David F. Mickus
Novi, MI.

By the numbers, David (and 12 is your lucky one, isn't it?).
1-Admittedly, it would have been a bit clumsy for Batman to remove his disguise under those circumstances, but we must claim the right to "artistic license". The action sequence that followed would not have been very interesting if it weren't performed by Batman.
2-See letter below.
3-What Gustav **learned** *from the fingerprint scan was that it* **wasn't** *Krugerrand, not necessarily that it* **was** *Bruce Wayne. All available information would have indicated that the "imposter" would* **have** *to be Batman, leading to his "educated guess".*
4-Handkerchiefs are porous. Just as holding it over his mouth did not prevent the gas from entering his lungs, it would have been equally as futile to stuff the handkerchief into a small portion of the door when the gas could have seeped through the cracks elsewhere.

* * * * *

Dear Editor,

Only one comment on Batman #333—Irv Novick really added a nice touch in panel 6 of page 9. Yessir, if super-hero insignias on the bare chest catch on, it may eliminate the need for wearing identifying costumes!

Steve Thompson
La Crescenta, CA

Way to go, eagle-eye! (How come you missed Batman's shirt, colored white, on the bed in panel 3?)

* * * * *

Dear Editor,

Intriguing as it is to see Batman globe-trotting in pursuit of clues to the identity of the mystery man (or woman?) undermining Bruce Wayne's financial empire, it's equally exasperating not being more privy to his thought processes—and those of Talia, as they make each scenic change of locale.

The dribs and drabs alluding to "The Lazarus Affair" in the back-up features of Batman's current issues haven't served to clarify matters any, and have only added to my confusion.

Once this 4-parter reaches its conclusion, I hope Talia will be among the deceased (I detest her shallow presence.), Catwoman safely esconced in Batman's rogues' gallery, and Robin reunited with his cowled guardian.

Yours truly,
Jeffrey Lowndes
Scranton, Pa.

*Batman probably would never trust Talia enough to tell her everything. The only other way, in this case, to have our readers be aware of their thought processes is through the extensive use of thought balloons...***not** *a good idea for an action/adventure story of this type. Too much would be revealed by their thoughts.*

The 4-parter is concluded, Talia is alive and well, Catwoman is God knows where and Robin is back to his roots...in a circus. Is there any other way we can make you happy?

* * * * *

Dear DCers,

Top of the mornin' to you. As I write you now, it's Christmas Eve, and I just went out and bought me a Christmas present; Batman #333.

I haven't written a letter to a comic magazine in years, but considering the job you've been doing on the Lazarus Affair, I just had to tell you guys what a job you've been doing. Marv Wolfman has been doing a marvelous job on Batman, combining the best of old Batman writers such as Denny O'Neil, Len Wein, and David V. Reed (what ever happened to him, anyway) with his own unique writing style to create fascinating and intriguing situations. This story has been going on, through subplots, since the Two-Face two-parter, and each installment seems as refreshing as the last. Even though "The China Syndrome" didn't move the plot along much, it was able to keep my interest, which is a lot more than I can say for a lot of other action-oriented tales. The interplay between Batman and Talia was a nice touch.

Interestingly enough, however, the Catwoman and Robin story upstaged the lead story in both action and intrigue. Marv really hit a goldmine with this combination. Both are pretty angry with the Batman right now, and, with their abilities, and Catwoman's underworld background, they make a pretty good team. It's unfortunate they have to be broken up after this episode. I hope Selena stays straight, I like her a lot more as a heroine than a villainess.

Irv Novick is a fantastic artist, and I especially like his work on Batman. Irv's art remains the same as it did in the early '70's, which was the Batman's best era. I'd rather see Irv do both the lead and back-up features, since his art is worth seeing throughout the issue.

Well, I've just about run out of things to say, as well as typewriter ribbon, so I'd just like to end by saying keep up the good work (gee, where've I heard that before).

Bill Norton
Waterloo, Ill.

I couldn't agree more with your lavish praise. Maybe that's because I read this series as you did...as a comics fan. Although I'm now the editor of **Batman**, *I was not in any way connected with the preparation of this terrific series, so I enjoyed it as much as you did.*

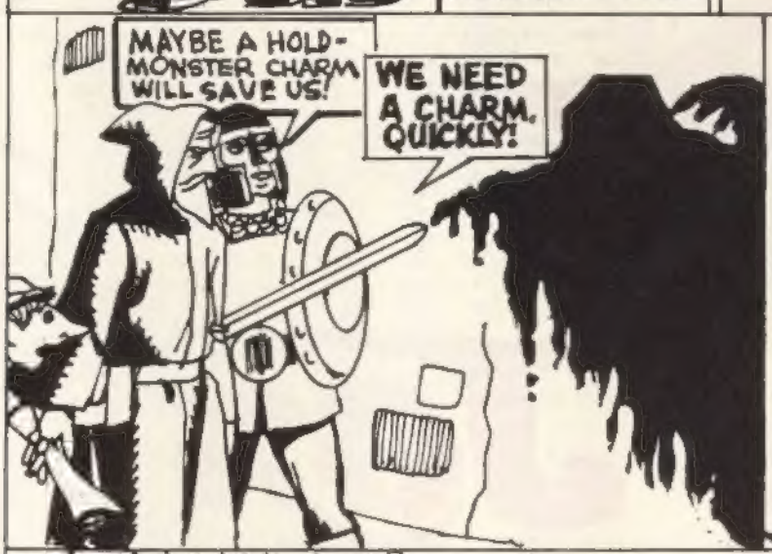
The reason the lead story/back-up concept worked as well as it did is because the same author/artist team did **both** *parts. It would not have worked half as well if it were done any other way.*

By the by, David V. Reed wrote for my old roomie, Julie Schwartz, and when Julie moved off the Batman series, so did Reed. A loss for us all.

Hope you had a nice new year!
Thank you and good afternoon!

A "DUNGEONS & DRAGONS®" Adventure!

LOOK! A SHADOW!
SQUISH! SLOSH!
WHAT DO YOU SEE, INDEL?
QUICK! A TORCH!
THEY HEAR SLOSHING NOISES, SMELL ROTTED VEGETATION; THEY SEE A SHAMBLING MOUND.



DUNGEONS & DRAGONS® and ADVANCED DUNGEONS & DRAGONS™ are Trademarks owned by TSR Hobbies, Inc. ©1981 TSR Hobbies, Inc. All Rights Reserved.

EXPLORE EXCITING WORLDS OF FUN, FANTASY, AND ADVENTURE WITH DUNGEONS & DRAGONS® AND ADVANCED DUNGEONS & DRAGONS™ ADVENTURE GAMES. SEND IN THE COUPON TODAY FOR YOUR FREE COLOR CATALOG OF GAMES AND ACCESSORIES, SEND TO: TSR HOBBIES, INC. POB 756 DEPT. 170, LAKE GENEVA WI. 53147

Please send a catalog to:

NAME_____

ADDRESS_____

CITY_____

STATE_____

ZIP_____

TSR The Game Wizards

© 1981 TSR Hobbies Inc. All Rights Reserved.

JOX®

the shoe named for you!

Whether you are into the radical sports . . . or the regular sports . . . whether it's BMX racing or plain old biking . . . basketball or baseball . . . whatever the sport and however you play it . . . there's a JOX shoe for you. Available only at Thom McAn.

Thom McAn

JOX JAG . . . the official shoe of TEAM JAG BMX.